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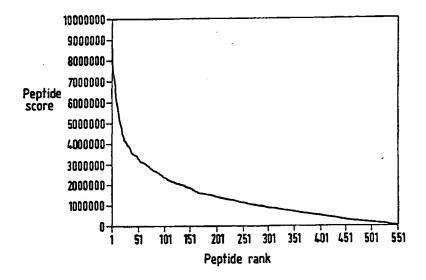
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(57) Abstract

The invention provides a method for the prediction of the binding affinity of a peptide to a major histocompatilibity (MHC) class II molecules comprising; 1) ascertaining the characteristics of a MHC molecule binding groove, 2) presenting a selected peptide to the MHC molecule and ascertaining a first conformation score for each pocket bound peptide side-chain, 3) amending the conformation of each pocket bound peptide side-chain and ascertaining a second conformation score, 4) repeating step 3 with alternative conformations of each peptide pocket bound side-chain, 5) choosing the highest conformation score for each pocket bound peptide side-chain in each binding groove pockets, herein known as "the pocket", and 6) combining the highest conformation score for each pocket and ascertaining a binding score for the complete peptide.

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IDENTIFICATION OF MHC BINDING PEPTIDES

The present invention relates to a new method for the prediction of peptides which bind to major histocompatibility 5 (MHC) class II molecules and to molecules created or modified through the use of these methods.

The immune system of the mammalian organism principally comprises two arms, the cellular immune system and the humoral or antibody-associated immune system. The cellular immune system is centred around the activity of T cells. There are two major classes of T cells, cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTLs) which attack cells displaying foreign antigen complexed with MHC class I molecules, and helper T cells which react to cells displaying foreign antigens in a complex with MHC class II molecules resulting in the secretion of cytokines which can activate B cells to produce antibody molecules.

Humans express six different MHC class I genes and six 20 different MHC class II genes, which are located on three highly polymorphic loci. This leads to considerable allelic variation in MHC molecules. The MHC class I consist of a α chain and a $\beta_2\text{-microglobulin,}$ the $\alpha\text{-chain}$ is split into three domains α_1, α_2 and α_3 . α_1 and α_2 form the MHC class I binding 25 groove which contains pockets that bind the side chains and the amino and carboxy termini of any peptide present in the groove. The MHC class II molecules comprise an α -chain and a β -chain, it is the α_1 and β_1 domains which create the MHC class II binding groove. The MHC class II binding groove also 30 contains pockets but it does not bind the end termini of the peptide. For this reason the peptides bound by the MHC class II molecule can be longer and of a more variable length. The typical length of peptides complexed with a MHC class I or a MHC class II molecule are 8-10 amino acids and 13-20 amino 35 acids, respectively.

At present only three MHC class II structure are available but

it is believed that the backbone structure of all MHC class II alleles presently identified are similar to that of HLA-DR1. Structures of different alleles can be predicted by using homology modelling. This involves identifying the amino acid differences near the binding groove and using a computer to change the conformation of the side-chains to give favourable steric and electrostatic arrangements and to make the pockets as large as possible. The end result is a three dimensional structure of a MHC class II molecule, which can be used in various experiments.

The ability to predict the peptides in a protein which can bind to a given MHC molecule has great value especially for medical applications. It is known, for example, that in 15 certain auto-immune diseases, T cells react with self-peptides presented by MHC class II molecules. It would be valuable to predict which peptides from auto-immune proteins are presented by MHC class II molecules in these diseases as well as to predict the binding of analogues of these peptides synthesised 20 as potential antagonists for the presentation of selfpeptides. In the selection of peptides for synthetic vaccines, the ability to predict MHC class II binding peptides would be advantageous. In addition, where heterologous proteins are developed as medicines or diagnostic imaging 25 agents, it would be advantageous to predict potential MHC class II binding peptides in order to eliminate these from the heterologous proteins before administration to patients.

While studies of peptides complexed with MHC class I molecules

30 have revealed conserved "anchor" residues at certain positions
within the presented peptides, such studies with peptides
complexed with MHC class II molecules have been less
successful mainly because of the greater length variability
of such peptides and the consequent difficulty in aligning

35 their sequences.

Methods for accurately predicting the binding potential of

peptides have been restricted to MHC class I interaction with a peptide. In one method using three-dimensional structures of MHC class I molecules, peptide binding is ranked in ascending order according to the energy values determined.

5 This method requires that the MHC structure be known, or that there is an obvious molecular model for the MHC structure. An identical method is said to be available for MHC class II but it does not consider the longer average length of the peptide and the open-ended peptide binding groove of MHC class II molecules. Neither does it use the best potential conformation of peptide amino acid side-chains and, therefore the binding energies calculated are only approximations.

Another drawback of using the same method for MHC class I and
15 MHC class II peptide binding is that the binding of peptides
to MHC class II is less dependant on strict allele-specific
binding motifs than peptides binding to MHC class I.
Individual amino acids in the peptide play a more significant
role in MHC class II binding than MHC class I such that the
20 conformation of amino acid side-chains is proportionally more
important to the accuracy of binding analysis. Therefore,
known methods do not provide a general method for analysing
the binding of peptides to three-dimensional structures of MHC
class II. There is thus a need for improved methods for
25 predicting the MHC class II binding potential of peptides.

An object of this invention is to provide a method for accurately predicting the binding affinity of a peptide fragment binding to a MHC class II molecule.

Another object of this invention is to provide a computer conditioned to perform the task of predicting the binding affinity of a peptide fragment binding to a MHC class II molecule.

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A yet further object of this invention is to provide a vaccine derived from the peptide fragment whose binding affinity to

- 4 -

MHC class II molecules has been determined.

Another object of this invention is to provide a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a peptide whose 5 binding affinity to MHC class II molecules has been determined.

According to the first aspect of this invention, there is provided a method for the prediction of the binding affinity

10 of a peptide and a major histocompatibility (MHC) class II molecules comprising;

- 1) ascertaining the characteristics of a MHC molecule binding groove,
- 2) presenting a selected peptide to the MHC molecule and 15 ascertaining a first conformation score for each pocket bound peptide side-chain,
 - 3) amending the conformation of each pocket bound peptide side-chain and ascertaining a second conformation score,
- 4) repeating step 3 with alternative conformations of each 20 peptide pocket bound side-chain,
 - 5) choosing the highest conformation score for each pocket bound peptide side-chain,
- 6) combining the highest conformation score for each pocketbound peptide side-chain and then ascertaining a binding score25 for the peptide.

It is particularly desirable to then compile information on all peptide fragments in a protein and compare the binding scores. It is preferable if the conformation of the backbone 30 of the peptide fragment is also altered and the conformation score and the binding score is then reassessed.

The method of this invention thus involves assessing a binding score for all possible candidate peptides by considering the predicted three-dimensional conformations and interactions between the MHC and the peptide in the complex. The computed score indicates the predicted binding affinity for the

- 5 -

particular peptide binding with the MHC allele and can be used to predict whether the peptides are likely to bind, or not.

Preferably, the conformation score for each pocket bound 5 peptide side-chain is ascertained by considering at least one of the following parameters:

- a) the steric overlap between the pocket bound peptide residue bound in the pocket and an atom forming the pocket; this is value B,
- 10 b) the number of hydrogen bonds which can be formed between the pocket bound peptide residue and an atom forming the pocket; this is value C,
 - c) the strength of electrostatic interactions between any polar atoms of the pocket bound peptide residue and any polar
- 15 atoms forming the pocket; this is value D, and
 - d) the number of favourable contacts between the pocket bound peptide residue and the MHC residues forming one of the pockets; this is value E.
- The conformation score for each peptide is computed based upon the predicted atomic interactions between each of the pocket bound peptide residues and MHC pockets. The geometric constraints imposed on the peptide by the shape of the MHC binding groove play an important part of the scoring function.
- 25 Favourable packing arrangements between peptide and MHC sidechains are rewarded by the scoring function, whilst arrangements involving steric overlap are penalised. Alternative conformation are tried for MHC residues if an MHC residue overlaps with a peptide side chain.

30

If no preferable conformation can be found the MHC side-chain is returned to its original conformation. In the event of more than a pocket residue side-chain overlapping with a pocket bound peptide side chain, the pocket residue side chains are adjusted in order of overlap severity, with the pocket residue side-chain which has the most severe overlap being adjusted first.

In preferred embodiments the steric overlap between the pocket bound peptide residue and the atoms forming the pocket can not be greater than 0.35 Angstroms, otherwise the residue is deemed unable to fit in the pocket.

5

Conveniently a favourable contact occurs when an atom from an MHC residue and an atom from the peptide residue have their centres separated by no more than the sum of their radii plus 0.5 Angstroms and are not overlapping.

10

Preferably the values B to E are imported into a first equation to give a conformation score(Z). The first equation is $Z_n=(cK_2C)-(cK_3D)+(cK_4E)-(cK_1B)$, where cK_1 to cK_4 are constants and n is the number of the pocket.

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The value of cK_1 is between 50 and 150. Preferably between 75 and 125.

The value of cK_2 is between 1000 and 2000. Preferably between 20 1250 and 1750.

The value of cK_3 is between 250 and 750. Preferably between 350 and 650.

25 The value of cK4 is between 500 and 1500. Preferably between 750 and 1250.

Conveniently the Z_n value for a pocket is multiplied by a coefficient, L, depending on the pockets importance in binding, to give a second Z_n value. The value L is in the range of 0.001 to 5. Larger pockets are considered more important in determining which peptide can bind, compared with the other smaller pockets, so the scores contributed by each pocket are weighted in proportion to the amount of the peptide side-chain buried by the surface of the MHC molecule. When binding to MHC class II molecules, peptides have shown high similarity in the degree to which their side-chains are buried

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by the MHC surface, despite having dissimilar sequences.

Preferably all the Z_n values are summed to give a value J. Value J is the overall contributing score of all the pockets for a certain conformation of the peptide fragment.

Conveniently the MHC residue is paired with the pocket-bound peptide residue if an atom from the MHC residue and an atom from the pocket-bound peptide residue have their centres separated by no more than the sum of their van der Waal radii plus one Angstrom.

In a preferred embodiment a value A_n is calculated by summing the pairwise interaction frequencies of paired residues. As for the Z_n value, preferably the value A_n for a pocket is multiplied by a coefficient, X_n depending on the pockets importance in binding. Preferably X is between 0.001 and 5.

Conveniently the A_n value for the pockets are summed to give 20 a value P.

In a preferred embodiment the binding score is ascertained by at least one of the following parameters

- a) the number of groove-bound hydrophobic residues; this isvalue F,
 - b) the number of non groove-bound hydrophilic residues; this is value G,
 - c) the number of peptide residues deemed to fit within their respective binding pocket; this is value H.

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Preferably values F, G, H, J and P are imported into a second equation to give a first binding score, Y.

Conveniently the second equation is $Y=J*F^2*(G*H+1)+P$.

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However, in the alternative, the term He, which evaluates the hydrophobicity of the pocket bound peptide side chains using

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a hydrophobicity scale disclosed in Janin et al [1979] Nature, 277 pg 491, can also be used to determine the Y value. Accordingly, $Y=(bK_2C)-(bK_3D)+(bK_4E)-(bK_1B)+(bK_5He)+P$. The scale used in Janin et al to measure hydrophobicity has a range from 5 -1.8 for lysine to 0.9 for cysteine.

It is known that peptides having favourable hydrophobic/hydrophobic interactions with solvent and MHC atoms have a higher binding affinity. Accordingly, it is preferable to include the term He.

The value of bK_1 is between 1 and 10. Preferably between 1 and 5.

15 The value of bK_2 is between 20 and 60. Preferably between 30 and 50.

The value of bK_3 is between 300 and 900. Preferably between 450 and 750.

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The value of bK_4 is between 1 and 20. Preferably between 5 and 15.

The value of bK_5 is in between 1 and 800. Conveniently 25 between 100 and 600. Preferably between 100 and 400.

In a preferred embodiment determination of the conformation score and the binding score are repeated for each pocket and each conformation of the peptide residue in said pocket. The conformation of the peptide is altered by rotating a side chain of the peptide residue by a pre-determined amount. In this way all possible conformations of the peptide side-chain in the pocket can be studied and the best or most likely conformation can be chosen to obtain the binding score.

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The conformation of the backbone of the peptide fragment is changed by modelling the conformation of the backbone on any

one of 167 backbones which have been previously generated, based on human and murine crystallographic structures of MHC class II peptide complexes. The backbone conformation and the conformation of the peptide fragment side chains are altered systematically until the conformation score and the binding score of every possible conformation has been determined.

Conveniently the steps are repeated using different peptides from a protein.

10

In preferred embodiments the binding scores (Y) for different peptides are tabulated and compared. Peptides with the highest scores are predicted to have the highest binding affinity for the particular MHC allele.

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In a preferred embodiment the method of determining the binding affinity of a peptide residue for an MHC class II molecule is used in the manufacture of a vaccine derived from a peptide identified by said method.

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Preferably the method of determining the binding affinity of a peptide residue for an MHC class II molecule is used to remove potentially immunogenic sequences from a protein and thus reduce said proteins immunogenicity when administered to 25 an organism.

Using the afore-detailed method it is possible to predict the peptides from an auto-immune protein which are presented by MHC class II molecules. Thereafter, it is possible to synthesise peptides which would be antagonists to the presentation of such peptides by the MHC class II molecules. It is also possible to determine any proteins in a vaccine containing heterologous proteins which might result in the stimulation of T cells due to their presentation on MHC class II molecules. These proteins could then be altered or removed depending on their function in the vaccine.

According to a second aspect of the invention there is provided a computer conditioned to receive information characterising a peptide bound to the MHC molecule and to utilise said information to perform a procedure having the following steps;

- 1) ascertaining the characteristics of a MHC molecule binding groove;
- 2) presenting a selected peptide, which is selected by a predetermined program, to the MHC molecule and ascertaining10 a first conformation score;
 - 3) amending the conformation of the peptide, by way of a predetermined program, and ascertaining a second conformation score;
 - 4) repeating step 3 with other conformations of the peptide;
- 15 5) selecting the peptide conformation with the highest conformation score; and
 - 6) calculating the binding score from the conformation score.

Preferably the above detailed procedure also includes a step 20 (7) which comprises repeating steps 1-4 with other peptide fragments in the protein to generate information on all peptide fragments in a protein so that a comparison can be made of the strength of the binding between the peptide and the MHC molecule.

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Conveniently the above detailed procedure further comprising a step (8) which comprises altering the conformation of the backbone of the peptide fragment.

The use of a computer in such a task is important because there are hundreds of calculations to perform per peptide fragment. A computer conditioned to perform the task can systematically change the conformation of the side chains and the backbone of the peptide fragment while calculating the conformation score and the binding score.

According to a third aspect of the invention there is provided

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a pharmaceutical composition made by determining the binding affinity of a peptide for a MHC class II molecule.

A pharmaceutical composition is thus engineered to contain a 5 peptide which is presented by an MHC class II molecule and which therefore stimulates the bodies cellular immune system. Alternatively the pharmaceutical composition is engineered so that it does not include peptides which significantly stimulate the immune system.

10

The invention will now be described, by way of illustration only, with reference to the following examples, tables and figures accompanying the specification.

Figure 1 shows a graphical representation of the binding score distribution of all 554 13-mer Influenza haemagglutinin peptides bound to HLA-DRB1*0101.

Figure 2 shows a graphical representation of the binding score distribution of all 554 13-mer Influenza haemagglutinin peptides bound to HLA-DRB1*0401.

Table 1 shows the value for all the factors required to determine the binding score for the 15 peptides from Influenza 25 haemagglutinin which have the highest binding affinity for HLA-DRB1*0101.

Table 2 shows the value for all the factors required to determine the binding score for the 15 peptides from Influenza haemagglutinin which have the highest binding affinity for HLA-DRB1*0401.

Table 3 lists the sequence difference between HLA-DRB1*0101 and HLA-DRB1*0401.

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Table 4 shows the torsion angles of the mutated side chains in HLA-DRB1*0401.

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Example 1

The following method was used to confirm that the peptide PKYVKQNTLKLAT, has a high affinity binding for the MHC molecule HLA-DRB1*0101.

- 5 The conformation score was calculated as follows for an oligomeric peptide having thirteen amino acid residues, herein known as a 13-mer peptide:
- a) Calculate the steric overlap between the pocket bound 10 peptide residue in the binding groove and an atom forming the pocket; this is value B.
- b) Count the number of hydrogen bonds which could be formed between the pocket bound peptide residue and atoms forming the
 pocket; this is value C.
 - c) Calculate the strength of electrostatic interactions between any polar atoms of the pocket bound peptide residue and any polar atoms forming the pocket; this is value D.

d) Count the number of favourable contacts between the pocket bound peptide residue and atoms forming the pocket; this is value E.

25 These values were then transformed into a conformation score (Z) by using the following equation:

$$Z_n = (cK_2C) - (cK_3D) + (cK_4E) - (cK_1B)$$

where cK_1 to cK_4 are constants and n is the number of the 30 pocket. CK_1 , cK_2 , cK_3 and cK_4 are equal to 100, 1500, 500 and 1000 respectively.

The conformation of each rotatable side chain of the pocket bound peptide bound residue was then altered by 30° and the conformation score was recalculated.

The above steps were repeated for each of the pockets and the

highest conformation score for each of the pockets was used to determine the binding score.

The binding score was determined by establishing values for the following parameters:

- a) the number of groove-bound hydrophobic residues; this is value F.
- b) the number of non groove-bound hydrophilic residues; this is value G.
- 10 c) the number of peptide residues deemed to fit within their respective binding groove; this is value H.

The conformational scores for pockets one and five were doubled and then all the conformational scores were summed to give a value J.

The above values were then imported in to the following equation in order to determine the binding score:

$$J*F^2*(G*H+1)+P$$

The binding scores for all the 13-mer peptides from Influenza Haemagglutinin binding with MHC molecule HLA-DRB1*0401 were calculated and the resultant top 15 binding scores are presented in Table 1. PKYVKQNTLKLAT has the 8th highest binding affinity for HLA-DRB1*0101 from all 554 possible overlapping 13-mer peptides.

Table 1

	Rank	Seq.	Peptide	Binding	P	В	Τ.	T	T.	Τ-	_	_
				Score	-	6	C	D	E	F	G	H
	1	328	NET VI DECKENT		 	 	╀∸	 	-	_	↓_	$oldsymbol{ol}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}$
_	<u> </u>	1 320	NTLKLATGMRNVP	9382500	15012	0.00	1		27	4	6	5
5	2	453	IDLTDSEMNKLFE	8288922	17964	0.72	1		40	3	6	5
	3	373	NSEGTGQAADLKS	7520420	10661	0.68	0	+0.01	30	4	7	
	4	504	HDVYRDEALNNRF	7211042	15527	0.56	1	-0.05	31	3	6	5
	5	119	PDYASLRSLVASS	7174962	17351	0.68	1		40	<u> </u>	4	5
	6	461	NKLFEKTRRQLRE	7049469	19407	0.79	0	+0.01	56	H	7	5
10	. 7	122	ASLRSLVASSGTL	6922064	16346	0.09	0		25	-	4	5
	8	322	PKYVKQNTLKLAT	6765975	18217	1.82	1		56	3	5	5
	9	458	SEMNKLFEKTRRO	6156822	16617	0.30	4	+0.08	44	2	7	5
	10	513	NNRFQIKGVELKS	6096900	14052	1.32	3	-0.01	30	4	7	4
	11	439	YNAELLVALENQH	5890199	14198	0.60	1		33	4	4	5
15	12	63	STGKICNNPHRIL	5887908	12776	0.75	5	-0.05	31	3	6	5
	13	50	IEVTNATELVQSS	5503551	14297	0.95	2	+0.06	39	3	5	5
	14	262	NSNGNLIAPRGYF	5284475	10102	0.09	1		21	4	5	5
į	15	257	DVLVINSNGNLIA	5239292	17028	1.35	2		35	-+	4	5

20

Example 2

A method as described in Example 1 was used to confirm that the peptide PDYASLRSLVASS from Influenza haemagglutinin, has high affinity binding for the MHC molecule HLA-DRB1*0401.

The structure of HLA-DRB1*0401 is not known but a three dimensional model was constructed based on the known structure of HLA-DRB1*0101 by homology modelling. 10 amino acid differences between the two molecules were identified (see Table 2) and HLA-DRB1*0101 was mutated using the molecular modelling package 'Quanta' to produce a model of HLA-DRB1*0401.

- 15 -

Then the side-chain conformations of the 10 amino acids were adjusted interactively. In most cases, torsion angles were chosen which resulted in little or no steric overlap between the mutated residues and surrounding atoms. In the case of 5 non-conserved residues which were either charged or whose side-chains were able to form hydrogen bonds, the potential to form favourable interactions was also considered. placement of 13H, 28D and 71K was such that these residues were able to form a favourable electrostatic arrangement 10 whilst at the same time, having minimum steric overlap with surrounding atoms. In the case of 30Y, this residue was positioned such that its hydroxyl group was situated close to the side-chain of 9E, where a hydrogen bond may be formed. The torsion angles chosen for the 10 mutated amino acid 15 residues were calculated in accordance with the standard conventions and are listed in Table 3.

The binding scores for all 13-mer peptides from Influenza Haemagglutinin binding with MHC molecule HLA-DRB1*0401 were calculated and the resultant top 15 binding scores are presented in Table 4. PDYASLRSLVASS has the 9th highest binding affinity for HLA-DRB1*0401 from all 554 possible overlapping 13-mer peptides.

Table 2

	Seq. Pos.	HLA-DRB1*0101	HLA-DRB1*0401		
	b9	Tryptophan	Glutamic acid		
	b11	Leucine	Valine		
5	b13	Phenylalanine	Histidine		
	b26	Leucine	Phenylalanine		
:	b28	Glutamic acid	Aspartic Acid		
	b30	Cysteine	Tyrosine		
	b31	Isoleucine	Phenylalanine		
10	b33	Asparagine	Histidine		
	b37	Serine	Tyrosine		
	b71	Arginine	Lysine		

Table 3

15

	Residue	C1	c 2	с3	C4
	b9	-61°	-71°	-2°	
•	b11	168°			
20	b13	-38°	-63°		
	b26	170°	57°		
	b28	-174°	-15°		
	b30	-174°	41°		
	b31	-119°	-13°		
	b33	-95°	-2°		
25	b37	-116°	-2°		
	b71	-97°	-45°	172°	9°

Table 4

•				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				<u></u>			_	т
	Rank	Seq.	Peptide	Binding	P	В	С	D	E	F	G	н
				Score								
	1	453	IDLTDSEMNKLFE	3070823	6559	0.36	0		42	3	6	5
	2	373	NSEGTGQAADLKS	2988447	4182	0.36	0	+0.01	32	4	7	5
. 5	3	328	NTLKLATGMRNVP	2899375	4639	0.00	1		27	4	6	5
	· 4	122	ASLRSLVASSGTL	2894599	6819	0.03	0		24	4	4	5
	5	72	HRILDGIDCTLID	2820446	4623	0.60	1	+0.16	28	4	6	5
	6	461	NKLFEKTRRQLRE	2662369	7203	0.36	0	-0.11	50	2	7	5
	7	119	PDYASLRSLVASS	2616648	6184	0.11	1		32	4	4	5
10	8	188	DNFDKLYIWGIHH	2615259	5429	0.58	0		29	5	6	4
	9	322	PKYVKQNTLKLAT	2515861	6407	0.46	2		44	3	5	5
	10	232	NIGSRPWVRGLSS	2488137	4818	0.41	0	-0.02	35	4	5	5
	11	504	HDVYRDEALNNRF	2353661	4965	0.05	1	-0.07	25	3	6	5
	12	135	EFITEGFTWTGVT	2208179	3543	0.07	1		20	4	5	5
15	13	251	TIVKPGDVLVINS	2176819	5259	0.10	0		16	5	5	4
	14	257	DVĻVINSNGNLIA	2107570	6673	0.71	2		40	3	4	5
	15	439	YNAELLVALENQH	2035430	4795	0.03	1		26	4	4	5

20 Example 3

A library of backbones were constructed by examining the crystal structure of the HLA-DR1 complexed with SEB superantigen. This results in a collection of homogenous peptides within the MHC binding groove. The atomic positions of the peptide backbone, as shown in the PDB file produced from the crystal, were considered to be the 'representative' backbone conformation of a peptide which binds to HLA-DR1.

Each of the peptide backbone conformations from the known MHC class II crystallographic structures are taken and after being transformed to the same frame of reference as the 'representative' peptide had the differences between their $C\alpha/C\beta$ positions and those of the 'representative' peptide

calculated. These differences summarise the variability of $C\alpha/C\beta$ atomic positions between the known peptides and the representative peptide.

5 The differences were doubled to take into account the fact that the variability of peptides thus far crystallised may not fully represent the true variability of peptides binding to MHC class II molecules. The differences were then used to define regions within which peptide $C\alpha$ and $C\beta$ atoms centres are constrained to lie.

An exhaustive search was then made through candidate peptide backbones. Starting from the 'representative' peptide candidates are generated by adjusting backbone ϕ and ψ angles in ten degree steps from the N-terminus to the C-terminus. An adjustment was rejected if it led to any $C\alpha$ or $C\beta$ atom centre being outside the allowed region, derived above. An adjustment which did not violate the constraint results in a new backbone conformation which is stored within the peptide backbone library.

The x, y, and z co-ordinates of atoms in the backbones designated 0, 14, 62, 65, 75, 93, 104, 107, 112, 118, 129, 134, 141, 144 are given in Tables 5 to 18.

Table 5

Atom	Atom	Position		
Number	type	in peptide	x y	Z Z
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 38 39 39 39 39 39 39 39 39 39 39 39 39 39	N C C O C N C C	0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 5 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	14.959 14.414 12.920 12.384 14.756 12.283 10.866 10.086 10.560 10.560 10.624 8.951 8.035 6.945 6.664 7.330 6.355 5.266 4.167 7.3349 7.4.342 7.349 7.1.950 7.1.050	86.191 20.687 86.222 22.078 85.531 22.516 84.640 23.352 87.660 22.593 85.957 22.044 85.316 22.536 84.115 21.770 84.127 20.547 86.325 22.743 83.055 22.510 81.829 21.926 82.131 21.907 82.737 22.840 82.131 21.907 82.737 20.637 82.737 20.839 79.730 20.447 80.548 20.839 79.730 20.447 19.230 80.785 20.839 79.730 20.447 19.230 80.855 21.528 79.734 21.814 79.658 20.721 80.855 21.528 79.734 21.814 79.658 20.721 80.855 21.528 77.560 21.444 78.292 20.475 78.292 20.475 78.292 20.475 77.560 21.444 77.437 18.471 8.938 20.261 8.858 21.205 77.551 21.833 6.102 21.660 6.607 21.227 7.551 21.833 6.102 6.44

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Table 5 continued

	Atom	Atom	Position	x	У	z
	Number	type	in peptide			
	42	С	8	-4.839	75.618	20.504
5	43	0	8	-4.505	74.687	21.236
	44	CB	8	-3.924	75.908	18.149
	45	N	8 9	-6.093	76.041	20.436
	46	CA	9	-7.113	75.382	21.236
	47	С	9	-7.976	74.424	20.403
	48	0	9	-8.366	74.742	19.266
	49	CB	9	·-7.963	76.413	21.973
	50	N	10	-8.203	73.232	20.971
10	51	CA	10	-8.995	72.149	20.365
	52	С	10	-10.492	72.527	20.200
	53	0	10	-10.962	73.563	20.702
	54	CB	10	-8.830	70.835	21.191
	55	N	11	-11.238	71.661	19.523
	56	CA	11	-12.654	71.907	19.270
	57	С	11	-13.603	71.483	20.395
	58	0	11	-13.661	70.302	20.800
15	59	CB	11	-13.072	71.269	17.940
	60	N	12	-14.360	72.481	20.852
	61	CA	12	-15.363	72.337	21.898
	62	С	12	-14.758	72.166	23.281
	63	0	12	-14.785	71.069	23.853
	64	СВ	·12	-16.320	71.168	21.577

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Table 6

	Backbone 14			-		
	Atom	Atom	Position	×	У	z
5	Number	type	in peptide			
	0	N	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
		CA	· 0	18.281	86.637	22.405
	2	C.	0	16.799	86.756	22.715
	3	0	0	16.250 0.000	87.880 0.000	22.720
	4	CB		16.174	85.601	22.931
10	1 2 3 4 5 6	N CA	1	14.768	85.553	23.287
	7	C	1	14.098	84.393	22.569
	7 8	Ō	1	13.053	84.588	21.908
	9	CB	1	14.090 14.723	86.846 83.223	22.869 22.680
	10	N	2	14.182	82.013	22.093
	11 12	CA C	2	12.659	82.164	21.901
	13	0	2	11.952	82.431	22.884
15	14	CB	2	14.470	80.825	22.994
	15	N	3	12.242 10.845	82.022 82.086	20.649 20.317
	16 17	CA C	1 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3	10.219	80.681	20.423
	18	0	3	10.898	79.694	20.101
	19	СВ		10.669	82.621	18.906
	20	N	4	8.980	80.660	20.898
20	21	CA	4	8.245 6.863	79.430 79.586	21.010 20.344
20	22 23	C 0	4	6.283	80.680	20.413
	24	СВ	4	8.071	79.059	22.472
	- 25	N	5	6.427	78.504	19.710
	26	CA	5	5.135	78.479	19.082
	27	С	5 5 5 6 6	4.084 4.171	77.942 76.770	20.074
	28	0	5	5.174	77.593	17.848
25	29 30	CB N	6	3.174	78.832	20.452
	31	CA	6	2.100	78.470	21.336
	32	С		1.349	77.248	20.769
	33	0	6	1.703	76.776 79.635	19.678
	34	СВ	6 7	1.139	76.781	21.492 21.550
	35 36	N CA	7	-0.441	75.677	21.137
	37	c	7	-1.906	76.139	21.008
30	38	Ö	7	-2.505	76.533	22.020
	39	СВ	7	-0.346	74.551	22.153
	40	N	8 8	-2.392 -3.758	76.101 76.454	19.773 19.498
	41 42	CA C	8	-4.704	75.537	20.299
	43	0	8	-4.316	74.404	20.618
	44	СВ	8	-4.043	76.313	18.013
		I	<u> </u>			

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Table 6 continued

Atom Number	Atom type	Position in peptide	×	У	z
45 47 48 49 51 52 53 54 55 55 57 58 59 61 62 63 64	N CA C O CB N CA C O CB N CA C O CB	9 9 9 10 10 10 10 11 11 11 11 11 12 12 12 12 12	-5.873 -6.881 -7.500 -7.243 -7.964 -8.250 -8.934 -10.393 -11.075 -8.914 -10.781 -12.127 -13.058 -13.254 -12.180 -13.551 -14.474 0.000 18.356 0.000	76.275 73.372 72.354	20.610 21.313 20.371 19.159 21.818 20.978 20.229 19.976 20.928 20.996 18.708 18.640 17.770 16.834 19.872 20.305 73.032 -12.127 0.000

Table 7

Backbone 6	2				
Atom	Atom	Position	x	У	z
Number	type	in peptide		•	
0	N	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
1	CA	0	18.315	86.971	22.396
2	C	0	16.796	86.979	22.404
. 2 3	0	0	16.173	87.867	21.780
4	CB	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
5	N	1	16.231	85.979	23.075
5 6	CA	1	14.791	85.876	23.216
7	С	1	14.286	84.665	22.451
8	0	ī	13.659	84.820	21.380
9	СВ	1	14.132	87.123	22.652
10	N	2	14.595	83.487	
11	CA	2	14.144	82.241	22.989
12	C	2	12.614		22.404
13	0	2		82.280	22.212
14	CB	2	11.890	82.495	23.195
15	N	2 2 2 2 2 2 3	14.518	81.077	23.305
		3	12.208	82.108	20.960
16	CA	3	10.810	82.071	20.629
17	С	3 3 3	10.289	80.623	20.734
18	0	3	11.105	79.691	20.783
19	CB		10.596	82.591	19.218
20	N	4	8.967	80.514	20.800
21	CA	4	8.328	79.228	20.852
22	C	4	6.861	79.356	20.395
23	0	4 .	6.157	80.256	20.876
24	CB	4	8.377	78.680	22.268
25	N	5	6.490	78.478	19.470
26	CA	5	5.140	78.440	18.978
27	С	5	4.171	78.141	20.139
28	0	5	4.543	77.392	21.055
29	CB	5	5.006	77.369	17.909
30	N	5 5 5 6	3.002	78.765	20.060
· 31	CA	6	1.975	78.549	21.042
32	c	6	1.039	77.416	20.577
33	0	6	1.276	76.842	19.503
34	CB	6	1.174	79.824	21.246
35	N	7	0.052	77.131	
36	CA	7	-0.931	76.132	21.418
37	c .	7	-2.325		21.102
38	0	7		76.784	21.008
39	CB	7	-2.553	77.814	21.661
40	N		-0.941	75.055	22.174
41	CA	8	-3.166	76.177	20.179
		8	-4.518	76.638	20.020
42	C	8	-5.491	75.631	20.666
43	0	6	-5.155	74.441	20.754

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Table 7 continued

Atom Number	Atom type	Position in peptide	x	У	Z
44 45 47 48 49 51 55 55 55 55 55 61 63 64	C n C c o C n C c o C n C c o C n C c o C	8 9 9 9 9 10 10 10 11 11 11 11 11 12 12 12 12	-4.845 -6.623 -7.650 -8.161 -8.197 -8.802 -9.030 -10.518 -11.258 -8.887 -10.869 -12.232 -13.047 -13.155 -12.284 -13.544 -14.366 0.000 18.332 0.000	76.793 76.163 75.345 74.329 74.658 76.215 73.143 72.107 72.390 72.730 70.758 72.271 72.455 71.182 70.312 72.752 71.124 70.022 -12.232 0.000 0.000	18.545 21.113 21.696 20.655 19.460 22.170 21.153 20.315 20.029 20.964 21.000 18.754 18.336 18.641 17.764 16.847 19.871 20.291 72.455 -12.232 0.000

Table 8

Backbone 6	5				
Atom Number	Atom type	Position in peptide	x	У	z
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 2 13 14 15 16 7 18 19 20 12 22 32 24 5 25 6 27 28 29 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30	N C C O C N C C	00000111112222233333444445555566666777778888	0.000 18.487 16.990 16.510 0.000 16.279 14.844 14.178 13.234 14.301 14.699 14.144 12.616 11.950 14.457 12.150 10.742 10.206 10.895 10.491 9.029 8.376 6.309 8.365 6.484 5.139 4.150 4.487 4.985 3.002 1.959 0.861 0.959 0.861 0.959 1.360 0.1360 0.13	0.000 86.641 86.870 97.999 0.000 85.796 84.664 84.830 87.132 82.381 82.381 82.065 82.065 82.065 82.065 82.065 82.065 82.065 80.624 79.322 80.356 79.328 80.356 79.328 79.326 77.306 77.274 77.533 78.634 77.533 77.533 77.533 77.533 77.533 77.533 77.533 77.634 77.533 77.634 77.533 77.634 77.6	0.000 22.418 22.533 22.287 0.000 22.868 23.065 22.417 21.612 22.424 22.746 22.248 22.089 23.038 23.212 20.895 20.608 20.484 19.902 19.314 21.065 20.993 20.491 20.801 22.364 19.718 19.212 20.363 21.280 18.142 20.275 21.246 20.665 19.433 21.628 21.573 21.187 20.366 20.039 22.422 20.048 19.326 19.676

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Table 8 continued

	Atom	Atom	Position	×	У	z
	Number	type	in peptide			
5	43 44 45 46 47 48 49	O CB N CA C O CB	8899999	-6.146 -3.906 -5.817 -7.058 -7.606 -7.311 -8.071	75.692 76.820 76.283 75.736 74.721 74.855 76.849	18.775 17.831 20.964 21.439 20.416 19.219 21.649
10	50 51 52 53 54	N CA C O CB	10 10 10 10	-8.339 -8.959 -10.421 -10.685 -8.919	73.746 72.751 73.147 73.773 71.398	20.940 20.108 19.824 18.787 20.799
15	55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63	N CA C O CB N CA C O CB	11 11 11 11 11 12 12 12 12 12	-11.294 -12.689 -13.474 -13.031 -12.873 -14.572 -15.436 0.000 18.675 0.000	72.734 73.067 71.860 71.253 74.262 71.556 70.486 -12.689 0.000 0.000	20.735 20.635 20.085 19.099 19.715 20.766 20.348 73.067 -12.689 0.000

Table 9

Backbone 75						
Atom	Atom	Position	x	у	z	
Number	type	in peptide		-		
0	N CA	0	0.000 18.442	0.000 86.539	0.000	
1 2 3	. C	0	16.947 16.452	86.419 86.839	22.136 21.066	
4 5 6	CB N	0	0.000	0.000 85.822	0.000 23.109	
6 7	CA C	1 1	14.823 14.466	85.676 84.417	23.048	
7 8 9	0		14.197	84.487	22.277	
10 11	CB N	2	14.218 14.505	86.875 83.290	22.338 22.985	
12	CA C	2 2	14.144 12.615	82.013 81.942	22.404 22.214	
13 14	OCB	2 2	11.895 14.601	81.727 80.882	23.200 23.308	
15 16	N CA	1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3	12.201 10.808	82.159 82.078	20.971 20.626	
17 18	CO	3	10.331	80.615 79.709	20.726	
19 20	СВ	3	10.592	82.592	20.772	
· 21 22	N CA	4 4	9.013 8.414	80.465 79.160	20.789 20.836	
23	CO	4	6.944 6.322	79.245 80.304	20.377 20.544	
24 25	CB N	4 5	8.478 6.482	78.609 78.145	22.251 19.793	
26 27	CA C	5	5.116 4.181	78.053 77.969	19.354	
28 29	O CB	5	4.609	77.470	21.629	
30 31	N	5 5 5 5 6 6	4.932	76.823 78.490	18.483 20.389	
32 33	CA C	6	1.974 0.736	78.445 77.679	21.420 20.910	
34	O CB	6 6	0.349 1.576	77.867 79.855	19.748 21.821	
35 36	N CA	7 7	0.206 -0.980	76.836 76.086	21.788 21.478	
37 38	0	7 7	-1.844 -1.448	76.872 77.977	20.470 20.071	
39 40	CB N	7 8	-1.778 -2.952	75.828 76.249	22.745	
41	CA	8	-3.885	76.249	19.189	

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Table 9 continued

Atom Number	Atom type	Position in peptide	x	У	z
42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 53 54 55 57 58 59 61 62 63 64	C O CB N CC O CB N CC O CB N CC O CB	8 8 9 9 9 9 10 10 10 10 11 11 11 11 11 12 12 12 12	-5.324 -6.195 -3.604 -5.491 -6.786 -7.424 -7.209 -7.681 -8.142 -8.840 -10.312 -10.616 -8.772 -11.149 -12.546 -13.321 -12.815 -12.741 -14.483 -15.343 0.000 18.817 0.000	76.435 76.435 76.194 75.859 74.747 74.729 77.087 73.864 72.797 73.196 73.833 71.532 72.774 73.108 72.011 71.509 74.445 71.674 70.702 -12.546	19.579 18.698 17.762 20.865 21.391 20.535 19.314 21.388 21.219 20.556 20.334 19.314 21.394 21.275 21.233 20.475 19.460 20.540 21.023 20.406 73.108 -12.546 0.000

Table 10

Backbone 93							
Atom	Atom	Position	×	У	z		
Number	type	in peptide					
0	N	0	0.000	0.000	0.000		
1 2 3 4	CA	0.	18.249	86.312	21.629		
. 2	C	0	16.910	86.341	22.345		
3	0	0	16.646	87.271	23.139		
4	CB	0	0.000	0.000	0.000		
5 6	N	1	16.080	85.351	22.027		
7	CA C	1 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3	14.782	85.213	22.662		
8	0	1	14.078	83.978	22.127		
9	CB	1	12.999	84.095	21.505		
10	N	1 1	13.932 14.712	86.434	22.357		
11	CA	2	14.712	82.828 81.558	22.345 21.938		
12	C	2	12.613	81.689	21.936		
13	Ö	2	11.912	81.568	22.828		
14	СВ	2	14.484	80.486	22.959		
15	N	.3	12.179	81.964	20.587		
16	CA	3	10.775	82.068	20.300		
17	С	3	10.163	80.658	20.176		
18	0	3	10.712	79.826	19.439		
19	СВ	3	10.564	82.834	19.005		
20	N	4	9.085	80.454	20.925		
21	CA	4	8.374	79.206	20.882		
22	С	4	7.026	79.401	20.159		
23 24	O CB	4	6.568	80.546	20.036		
25	N	4	8.130	78.697	22.292		
26	CA	5 .	6.482 5.203	78.283 78.295	19.690		
27	c.	5	4.087	78.033	19.035 20.066		
28	Ö	5	4.298	77.235	20.991		
29	СВ	5	5.163	77.229	17.954		
30	N	4 5 5 5 5 5 6 6	2.980	78.741	19.876		
31	CA	6	1.833	78.572	20.726		
32	С	6	1.164	77.213	20.434		
33	0	6	1.603	76.513	19.510		
34	CB	6	0.839	79.695	20.486		
35	N	7	0.169	76.899	21.254		
36	CA	7	-0.585	75.687	21.080		
37	C	7	-2.092	76.013	21.037		
38	0	7	-2.667	76.338	22.086		
39 40	CB	7	-0.300	74.729	22.223		
40	N CA	8	-2.639	75.944	19.829		
41	CA	8	-4.045	76.173	19.635		
		8	-4.853	75.344	20.653		
43	ŏ	8	-4.853 -4.314	74.368	20.65		

Table 10 continued

Atom Number	Atom type	Position in peptide	x	У	z
44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 57 59 60 61 62 63 64	CB N C C O CB N C C O CB N C C O CB C C O CB	8 9 9 9 9 10 10 10 10 11 11 11 11 11 12 12 12 12	-4.445 -6.082 -6.974 -8.018 -8.754 -7.679 -8.002 -8.947 -10.274 -10.348 -9.194 -11.256 -12.539 -13.542 -13.224 -12.418 -14.678 -15.731 0.000 18.616 0.000	75.782 75.791 75.097 74.312 74.928 76.089 72.999 72.137 72.891 73.727 70.899 72.533 73.179 72.288 71.836 74.524 72.054 71.281 -12.539 0.000 0.000	18.223 20.882 21.769 20.948 20.163 22.679 21.144 20.488 20.269 19.356 21.332 21.087 21.038 20.278 19.167 20.343 20.925 20.326 73.179 -12.539 0.000

Table 11

Backbone 104							
Atom	Atom	Position	×	У	z		
Number	type	in peptide					
0	· N	0	0.000	0.000	0.000		
1	CA	0	18.400	86.585	22.355		
2 3	С	0	16.914	86.850	22.523		
3	0	0	16.453	87.991	22.296		
4	CB	0	0.000	0.000	0.000		
5	N	1	16.189	85.793	22.880		
6 7	CA	1	14.763	85.897	23.128		
8	С 0	1	14.059	84.662	22.593		
9	CB	1	12.980	84.778	21.971		
10	N		14.210	87.122	22.421		
11	CA	2	14.693	83.511	22.810		
12	C.	2	14.125 12.594	82.241 82.372	22.404		
13	Ö	2	11.945	82.807	22.277 23.241		
14	CB	2	14.465	81.169	23.241		
15	N	3	12.104	82.026	21.093		
16	CA	3	10.690	82.048	20.837		
17	C	3	10.159	80.604	20.723		
18	0	1 3	10.919	79.713	20.317		
19	CB	1 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3	10.406	82.801	19.548		
20	N	4	8.902	80.444	21.120		
21	CA	4	8.250	79.166	21.029		
22	С	4	6.905	79.319	20.290		
23	0	4	6.415	80.450	20.160		
24	CB		8.009	78.605	22.420		
25	. N	5	6.401	78.185	19.817		
26	CA	5	5.130	78.158	19.147		
27	С	4 5 5 5 5 6 6	4.011	77.862	20.165		
28	0	5	4.164	76.935	20.975		
29	CB	5	5.135	77.091	18.066		
30	N	6	2.968	78.68Ô	20.096		
31	CA	6	1.823	78.502	20.947		
32	С	6	1.166	77.138	20.656		
33	0	6	1.718	76.360	19.864		
34	CB	6 7	0.819	79.617	20.708		
35	N	7	0.047	76.906	21.334		
36	CA	7	-0.707	75.699	21.135		
37	C	7	-2.213	76.030	21.083		
38 39	0	7	-2.793	76.357	22.129		
40	CB	7 8	-0.435	74.724	22.267		
41	N	8	-2.754	75.961	19.873		
41	CA	8	-4.157	76.194	19.670		
42	0 0	8	-4.974	75.368	20.684		
43	J	8	-4.444	74.387	21.228		

Tabl 11 continued

Atom Number	Atom type	Position in peptide	x	У	z
44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 53 54 55 57 59 60 61 62 63 64	си сосиссови ссови ссов	8 9 9 9 9 10 10 10 10 11 11 11 11 11 12 12 12 12	-4.550 -6.200 -7.100 -8.146 -8.997 -7.800 -8.007 -8.934 -10.266 -10.341 -9.181 -11.249 -12.537 -13.529 -13.514 -12.421 -14.310 -15.320 0.000 18.422 0.000	76.129 73.038 72.175 72.919 73.752 70.924 72.557 73.194 72.294 72.297 74.537 71.549 70.695 -12.537	20.911 21.794

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Table 12

Backbone 107							
Atom Number	Atom type	Position in peptide	x	У	Z		
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	N C C O C N C C	000001111122222333334444455555666667777788888	0.000 18.468 16.971 16.491 0.000 14.825 14.159 13.215 14.282 14.680 14.125 12.597 11.931 14.438 12.131 10.723 10.876 10.472 9.010 8.357 6.290 8.346 6.465 5.120 4.131 4.469 4.966 2.983 1.940 0.733 1.341 0.978 -2.026 -1.650 -3.106 -4.175 -5.514 -6.165	0.000 86.641 86.870 87.999 0.000 85.796 84.664 84.830 87.132 83.484 82.241 82.381 82.065 80.624 79.781 82.819 79.320 78.330 79.320 78.330 77.2731 77.533 77.2731 77.533 77.2731 77.533 77.2731 77.533 77.2731 77.533 77.2731 77.533 77.2731 77.533 77.2731 77.533 77.2731 77.533 77.2731 77.533 77.2731 77.533 77.2731 77.533 77.2731 77.533 77.2731 77.533 77.2731 77.533 77.2731 77.533 77	0.000 22.418 22.533 22.287 0.000 22.868 23.065 22.417 21.612 22.424 22.746 22.248 22.089 23.038 23.212 20.895 20.484 19.902 19.314 21.065 20.491 20.364 19.718 19.212 20.365 21.246 21.246 21.257 20.665 20.491 20.365 21.246 21.246 21.246 21.246 21.246 21.257 21.246 21.246 21.257 21.246 21.257 21.246 21.257 21.246 21.257 21.246 21.257 21.246 21.257 21.246 21.257 21.246 21.257 21.246 21.257 21.246 21.257 21.246 21.257 21.246 21.257 21.246 21.257 21.246 21.257 21.246 21.275 21.275 21.246 21.275 21.2		

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Table 12 continued

Atom Number	Atom type	Position in peptide	x	У	z
44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64	CB NCCOCNCCOCNCCOCNCCOC	8 9 9 9 10 10 10 11 11 11 11 12 12 12 12	-3.925 -5.836 -7.077 -7.625 -7.330 -8.090 -8.358 -8.977 -10.440 -10.703 -8.938 -11.313 -12.708 -13.493 -13.050 -12.892 -14.591 -15.455 0.000 18.675 0.000	76.820 76.283 75.736 74.721 74.855 76.849 73.746 72.751 73.147 73.773 71.398 72.734 73.067 71.860 71.253 74.262 71.556 70.486 -12.708 0.000 0.000	17.831 20.964 21.439 20.416 19.219 21.649 20.940 20.108 19.824 18.787 20.799 20.735 20.635 20.085 19.099 19.715 20.766 20.348 73.067 -12.708 0.000

Table 13

Backbone 11	2				···
Atom	Atom	Position	×	У	z
Number	type	in peptide		4	-
01234567890112345678901123456789012222222333333333344234445	N A C O C N A C	0000011111222223333334444455555666667777788888889	0.000 18.409 16.449 0.000 16.215 14.774 14.438 14.176 14.176 14.125 12.600 11.849 14.5224 10.839 11.133 10.674 9.0361 6.868 6.126 8.516 6.129 4.706 4.9976 6.948 1.948 1.948 1.958 1.948 1.958 1.948 1.958 1.948 1.958	0.000 86.726 86.606 87.028 0.000 86.058 84.649 87.097 83.480 82.175 82.152 82.152 82.152 82.152 82.357 82.357 82.357 82.359 80.583 79.411 80.583 79.411 80.583 79.411 80.583 77.540 78.615 77.540 77.540 77.540 77.78.715 77.78.78.715 77.78.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.715 77.78.78.78.78.78.78.78.78.78.78.78.78.7	0.000 22.399 22.121 21.041 0.000 23.077 22.981 22.125 20.907 22.337 22.761 22.093 21.872 22.858 22.932 20.557 20.692 18.745 20.701 20.960 20.585 21.285 18.745 20.701 20.960 20.585 21.285 18.033 20.149 21.158 20.291 21.285 18.033 20.149 21.158 20.621 19.459 21.158 20.621 19.459 21.158 20.301 21.353 20.301 22.353 20.301

Table 13 continued

Atom Number	Atom type	Position in peptide	x	У	Z
46 47 48 49 50 51 55 56 57 58 59 61 62 64	CA C O CB N CA C O CB N CA C O CB	9 9 9 10 10 10 10 11 11 11 11 12 12 12 12	-7.676 -7.858 -7.297 -8.883 -8.598 -8.898 -10.415 -11.204 -8.455 -10.740 -12.112 -12.689 -12.384 -12.211 -13.459 -14.109 0.000 18.708 0.000	75.631 74.446 74.482 76.549 73.451 72.298 72.236 72.400 71.034 72.040 71.910 70.583 69.523 71.942 70.705 69.563 -12.112 0.000 0.000	21.417 20.447 19.341 21.338 20.920 20.116 19.842 20.784 20.832 18.569 18.163 18.695 18.128 16.648 19.770 20.354 71.910 -12.112 0.000

Table 14

Backbone 118							
Atom Number	Atom type	Position in peptide	×	У	z		
01234567890112311567890123456789012333333333333333333333333333333333333	и С с о С и С с о С и С с о С и С с о С и С с о С и С с о С и С с о С и С с о С	000001111122222333333444445555566666777778888888	0.000 18.471 16.968 16.498 0.000 16.246 14.795 14.318 14.591 14.125 12.591 11.881 14.5185 10.762 10.762 10.536 8.263 6.325 8.263 6.325 8.101 6.413 5.115 4.061 4.217 5.122 3.069 1.984 1.060 1.327 1.192 0.928 -2.546 -0.975 -3.150 -4.496 -5.484 -5.163 -4.801	0.000 86.536 87.742 0.000 85.665 84.525 86.904 83.292 82.045 82.067 82.064 82.064 82.064 80.625 79.355 78.103 77.755 77.034 77.755 77.737 77.034 77.755 77.7034 77.706 77.708 77.	0.000 22.407 22.266 21.755 0.000 22.686 22.663 21.986 20.922 21.884 22.589 22.093 21.934 22.951 23.057 20.366 20.479 20.343 18.958 20.756 20.479 20.343 18.958 20.171 20.070 22.301 19.716 19.106 20.177 20.866 19.106 20.177 20.866 19.106 20.177 20.866 19.106 20.177 20.866 19.106 20.177 20.866 19.106 20.177 20.866 19.106 20.177 20.866 19.106 20.177 20.866 19.584 21.374 21.472 21.093 20.139 21.619 22.128 20.139 20.1		

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Table 14 continued

Atom Number	Atom type	Position in peptide	х	У	z
45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64	N C C O C N C C O C N C C O C B	9 9 9 10 10 10 11 11 11 11 11 12 12 12 12	-6.612 -7.652 -8.169 -8.200 -8.795 -8.513 -9.059 -10.544 -11.281 -8.931 -10.894 -12.254 -13.135 -13.091 -12.328 -13.856 -14.763 0.000 18.754 0.000	72.355 72.703 70.703 72.239 72.439 71.287 70.187 72.490 71.586 70.632 -12.254	22.087 21.059 20.214 19.925 20.859 20.892 18.649 18.229 18.754 18.183 16.713 19.828

Table 15

Backbone 1	29				
Atom	Atom	Position	×	У	z
Number	type	in peptide		4	7
0	N	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
1.	CA	0	18.495	86.291	22.091
. 2	С	. 0	17.099	86.364	22.686
1 2 3 4	0	0	16.668	87.449	23.137
	CB	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
5	N	1	16.409	85.228	22.645
6 7	CA	1	15.079	85.125	23.217
8	C	1	14.331	83.972	22.570
9	O CB	1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3	13.400	84.204	21.766
10	N	1 1	14.313	86.412	22.964
11	CA	1 2	14.767	82.758	22.900
12	C	2	14.125	81.558	22.404
13	0	2	12.611	81.805	22.245
14	СВ	2	11.911	81.927	23.261
15	N	2	14.358	80.407	23.367
16	CA	3	12.194	81.901	20.988
17	c	. 3	10.803	82.082	20.676
18	ŏ	3	10.173	80.727	20.297
19	СВ	3	10.650	80.085	19.349
20	N	4	10.652	83.058	19.522
21	CA	4	9.165	80.348	21.074
22	C	4	8.445	79.131	20.819
23	0	4	7.047	79.462	20.257
24	CB	4	6.608	80.615	20.376
25	N	5	8.305	78.330	22.102
26	CA	5	6.442	78.450	19.647
27	' C	.5	5.114	78.588	19.113
28	0	5	4.079	78.178	20.180
29	CB	4 5 5 5 5 5 6 6	4.373 4.955	77.289	20.993
30	N	6	2.945	77.714	17.881
31	CA	6	1.864	78.866	20.145
32	С	6	1.193	78.568	21.044
33	0	6 6	1.658	77.243	20.630
34.	CB	6	0.841	76.606	19.673
35	N	7	0.165	79.690	21.018
36	CA	7 7	-0.594	76.881	21.388
37	C	7	-2.093	75.695	21.099
38	0	7	-2.691	76.044	21.014
39	CB	7	-0.369	76.384 74.657	22.046
40	N	8	-2.610	75.977	22.184
41	CA	8	-4.006	76.226	19.793
42	С	8	-4.854	75.414	19.560
43	0	8 8	-4.305	74.533	20.559
44	CB	8	-4.374	75.835	21.237
45	N	9	-6.130	75.774	18.139 20.624
46	CA	9	-7.058	75.079	21.473
47	C	9	-8.093	74.330	20.610

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Table 15 continued

5 49 CB 9	-8.797 74.974	
58 O 11 -1 59 CB 11 -1 60 N 12 -1 61 CA 12 -1 62 C 12	77.768 76.066 -8.107 73.013 -9.049 72.181 -0.358 72.962 -0.355 73.921 -9.337 70.929 -1.409 72.493 -2.689 73.142 -3.742 72.155 -3.537 71.595 -2.603 74.353 -4.788 71.968 -5.877 71.114 -0.000 -12.689 -8.488 0.000 -0.000 0.000	19.819 22.384 20.781 20.083 19.848 19.062 20.893 20.510 20.432 19.889 18.802 19.519 20.684 20.295 73.142 -12.689 0.000

Table 16

Backbone 13	4				
Atom	Atom	Position	х	У	z
Number	type	in peptide		_	
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 21 3 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 33 34 35 36 37 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38	N A C C O C N A C	0000011111222223333334444455555666667777788888899	0.000 18.230 16.891 16.627 0.000 16.061 14.763 14.059 12.980 13.913 14.693 14.125 12.594 11.893 14.465 12.160 10.144 10.693 10.546 8.355 7.007 6.549 8.111 6.463 5.184 4.068 4.279 5.144 1.146 1.584 0.150 0.150 -0.604 -2.686 -0.319 -2.686 -4.872 -4.872 -4.872 -4.873 -4.933 -4.961 -1.986 -2.686 -2.686 -2.686 -2.686 -2.686 -2.686 -2.686 -2.686 -3.693 -4.872 -4.87	0.000 86.312 86.341 87.271 0.000 85.351 85.213 83.978 84.095 86.434 82.828 81.558 81.568 81.568 81.568 81.568 80.454 79.401 80.546 79.401 80.546 79.401 80.546 79.206 78.233 77.229 77.213 77.2	0.000 21.629 22.345 23.139 0.000 22.027 22.662 22.127 21.505 22.345 21.938 21.812 22.828 22.959 20.587 20.300 20.176 19.439 19.005 20.925 20.882 20.159 20.036 22.292 19.690 19.035 20.925 20.434 19.510 20.486 21.254 21.080 21.037 22.223 19.635 20.486 21.254 21.080 21.037 22.223 19.635 20.486 21.254 21.080 21.037 22.223 19.635 20.486 21.254 21.080 21.037 22.223 19.635 20.486 21.254 21.080 21.037 22.223 19.635 20.486 21.254 21.080 21.037 22.223 19.635 20.486 21.254 21.080 21.037 22.223 20.434 21.254 21.080 21.037 22.223 20.436 21.254 21.080 21.037 22.223 20.436 21.254 21.2

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Table 16 continued

	Atom	Atom	Position	×	У	z
	Number	type	in peptide			
	47	C	9	-8.036	74.312	20.948
5	. 48	0	9	-8.773	74.928	20.163
ا	49	CB	9	-7.698	76.089	22.679
	50	N	10	-8.021	72.999	21.144
	51	CA	10	-8.966	72.137	20.488
	52	С	10	-10.293	72.891	20.269
	53	0	10	-10.367	73.727	19.356
	54	CB	10	-9.213	70.899	21.332
	55	N	11	-11.275	72.533	21.087
	56	CA	11	-12.558	73.179	21.038
10	57	С	11	-13.561	72.288	20.278
	58	0	11	-13.243	71.836	19.167
	59	CB	11	-12.437	74.524	20.343
	60.	N	1.2	-14.696	72.054	20.925
	61	CA	12	-15.750	71.281	20.326
	62	С	12	0.000	-12.558	73.179
	63	Ō	12	18.616	0.000	-12.558
	64	СВ	12	0.000	0.000	0.000
15						

Table 17

Atom	25				
	Atom	Position	x	У	Z
Number	type	in peptide			
0	N	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
1 2	CA	0	18.454	86.485	22.460
2	С	0	16.950	86.573	22.266
3 4	0	0	16.481	87.224	21.305
	CB N	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
5 6	CA	1	16.227 14.776	85.893	23.151
7	c c	1		85.918	23.128
7 8	ő	1	14.252 13.601	84.663 84.752	22.452
9	СВ		14.299	87.132	21.387
10	N	2	14.573	83.520	22.349 23.055
11	CA	2	14.106	82.241	22.559
12	С	2	12.572	82.273	22.400
13	0	2	11.868	82.483	23.398
14	CB	1 2 2 2 2 2 2	14.499	81.135	23.523
15	N	3	12.141	82.099	21.156
16	CA	3 3 3 3 3	10.736	82.054	20.855
17	С	3	10.224	80.605	20.973
18	0	3	11.035	79.698	21.214
19	СВ	3	10.489	82.573	19.449
20	N	4	8.911	80.468	20.833
21	CA	4	8.289	79.172	20.868
22	C	4	6.823	79.286	20.405
23	0	4	6.108	80.179	20.882
24	СВ	4	8.338	78.611	22.279
25	N	5 5 5 5	6.465	78.404	19.478
26	CA	5	5.118	78.352	18.981
27	C	5	4.147	78.042	20.138
28	0	5	4.521	77.295	21.054
29	CB	5	4.999	77.280	17.911
30 31	N	6	2.972	78.656	20.055
32	CA	6	1.943	78.430	21.033
33	Co	6	1.020	77.288	20.562
34	СВ	6	1.265	76.719	19.488
35	N	6 7	1.130	79.697	21.234
36	CA	7	0.034	76.991	21.401
37	C	7	-0.938	75.983	21.081
38	Ö	7	-2.338	76.622	20.985
39	СВ	7	-2.577 -0.939	77.649	21.637
40	N	8	-3.173	74.903	22.150
41	CA	8	-4.529	76.006	20.156
42	c c	8	-5.492	76.453	19.995
43	0	8	-5.144	75.437	20.641
44	СВ	8	-4.856	74.250 76.604	20.729
45	N	9	-6.629	75.957	18.520
46	CA	ś	-7.649	75.129	21.087
47	С	9	-7.625	73.734	21.670 21.014

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Table 17 continued

Atom Number	Atom type	Position in peptide	х	У	z
48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 59 60 61 62 63 64	O CB N CB C C O CB N CB C O CB	9 10 10 10 10 11 11 11 11 11 12 12 12 12	-6.531 -9.013 -8.822 -8.965 -10.460 -11.065 -8.334 -10.983 -12.353 -12.732 -12.400 -12.548 -13.373 -13.836 0.000 18.541 0.000	73.205 75.766 73.200 71.925 71.616 70.945 70.836 72.148 71.910 70.452 69.551 72.168 70.294 69.000 -12.353 0.000 0.000	20.765 21.470 20.803 20.155 19.939 20.788 21.005 18.840 18.476 18.805 18.020 16.992 19.958 20.380 71.910 -12.353 0.000

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Table 18

Backbone 144							
Atom	Atom	Position	· X ·	У	z		
Number	type	in peptide		-	-		
0	N	0	0.000	0.000	0.000		
1 2	CA	0 0	18.480	86.428	22.392		
3	C .	0	16.967	86.551	22.343		
4	СВ	Ö	16.431	87.361	21.553		
5	N	1	16.308	0.000 85.727	0.000		
6	CA	1	14.861	85.759	23.153 23.256		
7	C	1	14.262	84.643	22.416		
8	0	1	13.512	84.919	21.454		
9	CB	1 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3	14.341	87.091	22.745		
10	N	2	14.630	83.412	22.767		
11 12	CA	2	14.106	82.241	22.093		
13	C	2	12.565	82.287	22.092		
14	СВ	2	11.968	82.501	23.158		
15	N	3	14.581 12.006	80.981	22.796		
16	CA	3	10.578	82.121	20.899		
17	c	3	10.094	82.090 80.628	20.743		
18	0	3	10.880	79.754	20.667 20.273		
19	CB	3	10.177	82.830	19.479		
20	N	4	8.846	80.435	21.077		
21	CA	4	8.236	79.135	21.020		
22	C	4	6.879	79.228	20.292		
23	0	4	6.338	80.337	20.167		
24	СВ	4	8.027	78.596	22.424		
25 . 26	N	5 5 5	6.422	78.073	19.822		
27	CA C	5	5.148	77.990	19.162		
28	0	5	4.052	77.645	20.190		
29	CB	5	4.068	76.532	20.737		
30	N	5	5.192 3.184	76.923	18.081		
31	CA	6	2.076	78.622 78.436	20.423		
32	С	6	1.134	77.348	21.319		
33	0	6	1.402	76.819	20.765 19.676		
34	СВ	6	1.313	79.740	21.481		
35	N	7 7	0.109	77.048	21.553		
36	CA		-0.883	76.089	21.152		
37	C	7	-2.256	76.780	21.027		
38 39	0	7	-2.407	77.911	21.512		
40	CB N	7 8	-0.965	74.968	22.174		
41	CA	8	-3.167	76.084	20.357		
42	C C	8	-4.509	76.574	20.198		
43	ŏ	8	-5.503 -5.193	75.588	20.843		
44	CB	8	-4.832	74.391 76.735	20.931		
	ł	1	7.052	10.135	18.722		

Table 18 continued

Atom Number	Atom type	Position in peptide	×	У	Z
45 46 47 48 49 50 51 53 55 55 57 59 60 61 62 64	n A O O B A O O O B A O O O B	9 9 9 10 10 10 10 11 11 11 11 12 12 12 12	-6.623 -7.669 -8.201 -8.407 -8.801 -8.360 -8.894 -10.383 -11.124 -8.745 -10.734 -12.097 -12.907 -12.859 -12.150 -13.575 -14.414 0.000 18.465 0.000	72.681 70.719 72.224 72.403 71.126 70.178 72.700 71.155 70.059 -12.097	19.672 22.347 21.286 20.448 20.162 21.097 21.133 18.886 18.469 18.774 17.977 16.980 19.921 20.322 72.403

Example 4

The following method was used to identify high affinity binding peptides from Myelin Basic Protein (MBP). The binding affinities for a set of MBP peptides to HLA-DRB1*0401 have been experimentally determined and published. This set includes all possible 13 amino acid peptides from the MBP sequence which have a hydrophobic anchor residue at the P3 position. It is known that only such peptides bind to HLA-DR molecules with detectable affinity.

The same homology model of HLA-DRB1*0401 was used for this example as was used in Examples 1 and 2.

- 15 For each of the 13-mer peptides from the experimental determined set, a binding score was calculated as follows:
- a) Calculate the steric overlap between the pocket bound peptide residue in the binding groove and an atom forming the
 20 pocket; this is value B.
 - b) Count the number of hydrogen bonds which could be formed between the pocket bound peptide residue and atoms forming the pocket; this is value C.

25

- c) Calculate the strength of electrostatic interactions between any polar atoms of the pocket bound peptide residue and any polar atoms forming the pocket; this is value D.
- 30 d) Count the number of favourable contacts between the pocket bound peptide residue and atoms forming the pocket; this is value E.
- e) These values were then transformed into a conformation 35 score (Z) by using the following equation:

 $Z_n = cK_2C - cK_3D + cK_4E - cK_1B$

Where K_1 to K_4 are constants and n is the sequence position of the peptide residue (numbered from 1 to the N-terminus to 13 at the C-terminus). K_1 , K_2 , K_3 and K_4 are equal to 100, 1500, 500 and 1000, respectively.

5

The conformation of each rotatable side-chain of the peptide residue was then altered by 15 degrees and the conformation score was recalculated.

10 The above steps were repeated for each residue of the peptide and the highest conformation score for each peptide residue was sued to determine the conformation score for the peptide.

At the point, the entire proceedings for establishing the conformation score for the peptide were repeated another 166 times, each time using a different peptide backbone form the library of peptide backbones.

The combination of peptide backbone and peptide side-chain conformations which gave the best conformation was then used to determine a binding score for the peptide.

The binding score was determined by establishing values of the following parameters:

- a) Calculate the steric overlap between the pocket bound peptide residue in the binding groove and an atom forming the pocket; this is value B.
- 30 b) Count the number of hydrogen bonds which could be formed between the pocket bound peptide residue and atoms forming the pocket; this is value C.
- c) Calculate the strength of electrostatic interactions 35 between any polar atoms of the pocket bound peptide residue and any polar atoms forming the pocket; this is value D.

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- d) Count the number of favourable contacts between the pocket bound peptide residue and atoms forming the pocket; this is value E.
- 5 e) Calculate the hydrophobicity of the pocket bound peptide side chains using a hydrophobicity scale disclosed in Janin et al.
- f) Calculate the number of MHC pocket residues which are paired with the pocket bound peptide residues. Pairing takes place if the centre of an atom from the MHC pocket residue and the centre of an atom from the pocket bound peptide residues are no more than the sum of their van der wall radii plus one Angstrom. The value An is calculated by summing the number of paired residues, where n is the number of the pocket. The values of An taking into account the pockets importance in binding are summed to give a value P.

The above values were then imported in to the following 20 equation in order to determine the binding score (Y):

 $Y=P+bK_2C-bK_3D+bK_4E-bK_1B+bK_5He$

Wherein the values bK_1 , bK_2 , bK_3 , bK_4 and bK_5 are 2, 40, 600, 25 10 and 200 respectively.

As can be seen from the results in Table 19 the top four predicted scores pertain to four peptides which appear within the top five best binders.

Table 19

BB	PEPTIDE A	FFINITY	BINDING	D	E	F.	В	P	Ho
			SCORE			_			
104	HFFKNIVTPRTPP	40	4729	-0.12	11	17	97.7	3580	1.5
107	VHFFKNIVTPRTP	135	2125	-Ó.19	12	15	284.5	2255	0.2
104	PVVHFFKNIVTPR	161	4528	-0.06	15	12	337.6	4565	1.4
104	FSWGAEGQRPGFG	298	5205	-0.15	12	10	169.7	4670	-0.2
104	KGFKGVDAQGTLS	460	4353	-0.09	9	13	66.2	3145	1.9
112	KYLATASTMDHAR	479	2672	-0.09	13	15	106.8	1480	2.4
129	SKYLATASTMDHA	601	498	-0.06	11	13	275.7	620	0.4
141	RGLSLSRF8WGAE	1213	4140	-0.05	17	15	81.4	3455	1.7
62	TGILDSIGRFFGG	2942	337	0.04	21	17	25.3	-5	-0.6
0	RFFGGDRGAPKRG	3403	3218	-0.24	20	14	369.1	3100	1.6
104	NIVTPRTPPPSQG	6615	1971	0	10	11	305	2090	0.8
14	DSIGRFFGGDRGA	7288	1904	-0.08	8	15	37.3	1640	0.2
0	SRFSWGAEGQRPG	8352	1735	-0.08	20	13	466.8	1965	0.8
104	SKIFKLGGRDSRS	8494	1387	-0.1	10	10	149.2	825 ·	. 2.8
118	SDYKSAHKGFKGV	8510	1864	-0.27	14	14	14.2	775.	0.7
65	STMDHARHGFLPR	8860	1885	-0.21	14	15	191.3	1410	2.2
104	NPVVHFFKNIVTP	12870	1347	-0.11	12	10	332.5	1690	0.2
104	GTLSKIFKLGGRD	16000	4152	-0.11	17	10	118	3775	1.1
93	GRFFGGDRGAPKR	18467	244	-0.11	8	8	161	-175	2.3
75	KIFKLGGRDSRSG	25358	2185	-0.13	19	12	279.4	2060	1.4
0	FGYGGRASDYKSA	25397	1301	-0.12	15	15	306.1	1530	-0.4
0	PGFGYGGRASDYK	35200	3485	0.01	14	13	183.5	3165	1.4
144	GILDSIGRFFGGD	44400	2031	-0.09	21	14	32.1	1745	-0.5
134	KNIVTPRTPPPSQ	59000	1077	-0.04	9	10	45.9	340	3.1
0	KGVDAQGTLSKIF	100000	2067	-0.11	24	15	695.2	2795	0.3

KEY - BB = NUMBER OF THE BACKBONE CHOSEN FROM THE LIBRARY

CLAIMS

- A method for the prediction of the binding affinity of a peptide to a major histocompatibility (MHC) class II 5 molecules comprising;
 - a) ascertaining the characteristics of a MHC molecule binding groove,
- b) presenting a selected peptide to the MHC molecule and ascertaining a first conformation score for each pocket bound
 peptide side-chain,
 - c) amending the conformation of each pocket bound peptide side-chain and ascertaining a second conformation score,
 - d) repeating step 3 with alternative conformations of each peptide pocket bound side-chain,
- e) choosing the highest conformation score for each pocket bound peptide side-chain in each binding groove pockets, herein known as 'the pocket', and
 - f) combining the highest conformation score for each pocket and ascertaining a binding score for the complete peptide.
 - 2. A method according to claim 1 which further comprises the step of compiling information on all peptide fragments in a protein and comparing the binding scores.
- 25 3. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the conformation score is ascertained by at least one of the following parameters:
- a) the number of favourable contacts between MHC residues forming one of the pockets and the pocket bound peptide 30 residue; this is value E
 - b) the steric overlap between the pocket bound peptide residue bound in the pocket and an atom forming the pocket; this is value B,
- c) the number of hydrogen bonds which could be formed between 35 the pocket bound peptide residue and an atom forming the pocket; this is value C,
 - d) the strength of electrostatic interactions between any

polar atoms of the pocket bound peptide residue and any polar atoms forming the pocket; this is value D.

- 4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the steric overlap 5 between the pocket bound peptide residue and the atoms forming the pocket can not be greater than 0.35 Angstroms.
- A method according to claim 3 wherein a favourable contact occurs when an atom from an MHC residue and an atom
 from the peptide residue have their centres separated by no more than the sum of their radii plus 0.5 Angstroms and are not overlapping.
- 6. A method according to the preceding claims wherein values
 15 B to E are imported into a first equation, to give a conformation score (Z)
- 7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the first equation is $Z_n = (cK_2C) (cK_3D) + (cK_4E) (cK_1B)$, where cK_1 to cK_4 are 20 constants and n is the number of the pocket.
 - 8. A method according to claim 7 wherein cK_1 is between 50 and 150.
- 25 9. A method according to claim 7 wherein cK_2 is between 1000 and 2000.
 - 10. A method according to claim 7 wherein cK_3 is between 250 and 750.
 - 11. A method according to claim 7 wherein cK_4 is between 500 and 1500.

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12. A method according to any preceding wherein the Z_n value 35 for a pocket is multiplied by a coefficient, L, depending on the pockets importance in binding, to give a second Z_n value.

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- 13. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein all the Z values are summed to give a value J.
- 14. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein 5 the MHC residue is paired with the pocket-bound peptide residue if an atom from the MHC residue and an atom from the pocket-bound peptide residue have their centres separated by no more than the sum of their van der Waal radii plus one Angstrom.

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- 15. A method according to claim 14 wherein a value A_n is calculated by summing the pairwise interaction frequencies of paired residues.
- 15 16. A method according to either claim 14 or 15 wherein the value A_n for a pocket is multiplied by a coefficient, X, depending on the pockets importance in binding.
- 17. A method according to claim 16 wherein the A_n value for 20 the pockets are summed to give a value P.
 - 18. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the binding score is ascertained by at least one of the following parameters
- 25 a) the number of groove-bound hydrophobic residues; this is value F,
 - b) the number of non groove-bound hydrophilic residues; this is value G,
- c) the number of peptide residues deemed to fit within their 30 respective binding pocket; this is value H.
 - 19. A method according to any one of claims 13 to 18 wherein values F, G, H, J and P are imported into a second equation to give a first binding score, Y.

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20. A method according to claim 19 wherein the second algorithm is $Y=J*F^2*(G*H+1)+P$.

- 21. A method according to claim 1-17 wherein the hydrophobicity of the pocket bound peptide side chains is evaluated using a hydrophobicity scale; this is value He.
- 5 22. A method according to claim 21 wherein the hydrophobicity scale ranges from -1.8 for lysine to 0.9 for cysteine.
 - 23. A method according to either of claims 21 or 22 wherein $Y=(bK_2C)-(bK_3\ D)+(bK_4E)-(bK_1B)+(bK_5He)+P$.

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- 24. A method according to claim 23 wherein bK_1 is between 1 and 5.
- 25. A method according to claim 23 wherein bK_2 is between 20 15 and 60.
 - 26. A method according to claim 23 wherein bK_3 is between 300 and 900.
- 20 27. A method according to claim 23 wherein bK_4 is between 1 and 20.
 - 28. A method according to claim 23 wherein bK_{5} is between 1 and 800.

- 29. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the steps in claim 3 are repeated for each pocket and each conformation of the peptide residue in said pocket.
- 30 30. A method according to claim 29 wherein the conformation of the peptide is altered by rotating a side chain of the peptide residue by a pre-determined amount.
- 31. A method according to either claim 29 or 30 where in the 35 conformation of the peptide is altered by changing the conformation of the peptide backbone.

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- 32. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the steps are repeated using different peptides from a protein.
- A method according to any of the preceding claim wherein 5 the binding scores (Y) for different peptides are tabulated and compared.
- 34. A method according to any of the preceding claim which is used in the manufacture of a vaccine derived from a peptide 10 identified by said method.
- A method according to any of the preceding claims which is used to remove potentially immunogenic sequences from a protein and thus reduce said proteins immunogenicity when 15 administered to an organism.
- conditioned Α computer to receive information characterising a peptide bound to the MHC molecule and to utilise said information to perform a procedure having the 20 following steps;
 - a) ascertaining the characteristics of a MHC molecule binding groove;
 - b) presenting a selected peptide, which is selected by a predetermined program, to the MHC molecule and ascertaining
- 25 a first conformation score;
 - c) amending the conformation of the peptide, by way of a predetermined program, and ascertaining a second conformation score;
 - d) repeating step 3 with other conformations of the peptide;
- 30 e) selecting the peptide conformation with the highest conformation score; and
 - f) calculating the binding score from the conformation score.
- 37. A computer according to claim 36 further comprising a 35 step (7) which comprises repeating steps 1-4 with other peptide fragments in the protein to generate information on all peptide fragments in a protein

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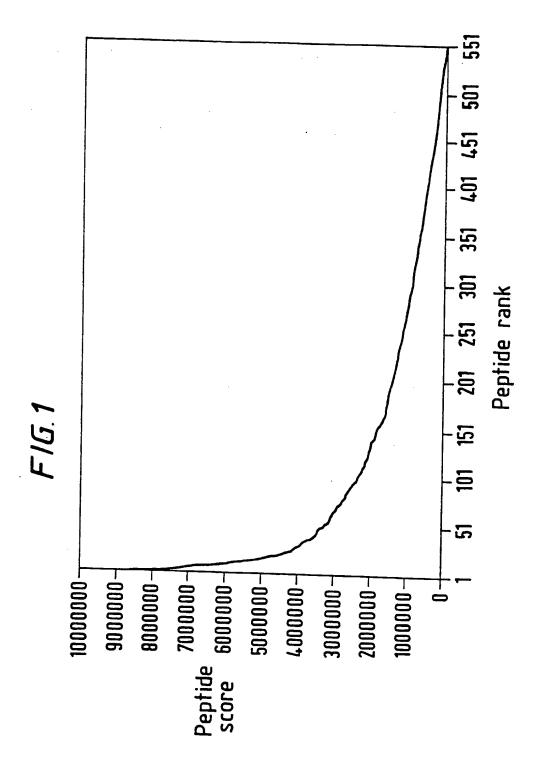
so that a comparison can be made of the strength of the binding between the peptide and the MHC molecule.

- 38. A computer according to either claim 36 or 37 further 5 comprising a step (8) which comprises altering the conformation of the backbone of the peptide fragment.
 - 39. A pharmaceutical composition produced resultant upon to a method as claimed in anyone of claims 1 to 35.

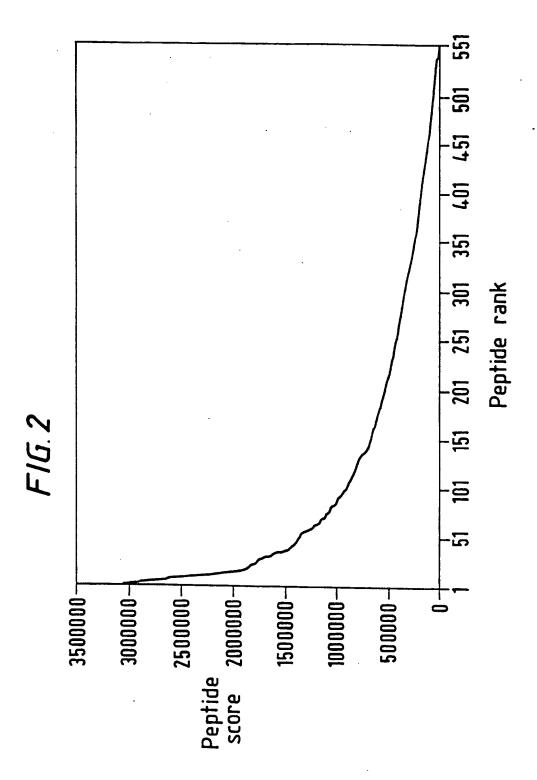
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International Application No PCT/GR 98/01801

A. CLAS	SIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER	101/08 9	0/01601
IPC 6	G01N33/569 G01N33/564 G01N3	33/566 C07K14/705	
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	to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classificatio	ssification and IPC	
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Electronic	data base consulted during the international search (name of da	ta base and, where practical, search terms used	1)
C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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	NL - 2260 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040. Tx. 31 651 epo rd.		
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	10 (continuation of second sheet) (July 1992)		

International application No.

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)
This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. X Claims Nos.: 36-38 because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely: Rule 39.1(i) PCT - Mathematical method
Ctaims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II Observations where unity of Invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid specifically claims Nos.:
No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

information on patent family members

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